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NEWS ITEMS

Professor F. K. Ravn, professor of plant pathology at the Danish Royal College of Agriculture, who has been travelling and lecturing in the United States as the guest of Government, visited the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on August 13.

Dr. A. F. de Waldheim, director of the Imperial Botanic Garden at Petrograd, has just completed his fiftieth year of scientific and administrative activities. A ceremony in the hall of the herbarium at the garden, with presentation of addresses marked the occasion. Until 1897, when he became director of the garden, Dr. de Waldheim was professor of botany at the University of Warsaw.

Mr. Walter Pitz has been awarded the bronze thesis medal of the Science Club of the University of Wisconsin for his paper on "The effect of elemental sulphur and of calcium sulphate on certain of the higher and lower forms of plant life."

In the *Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden for July a statement of the permanent funds and endowment of the garden shows that the fund is now somewhat more than five hundred thousand dollars, not counting two bequests aggregating \$25,000, which are subject to life interests. Besides the general endowment fund, there are eleven other funds devoted to special purposes. The Board of Managers appeal for a total endowment fund of over a million and a half dollars.

Among Cambridge University scientists serving in the British army the following botanists are recorded in *Nature*: R. P. Gregory, E. Hindle, and H. H. Thomas.

From the *Sun* (August 14) we learn that Dr. Otto Appel, the European plant pathologist, who came to the United States more than a year ago at the invitation of this government to aid investigations into diseases which are destroying the potato crops throughout the country, will sail to-day on the steamship Kristianiafjord of the Norwegian Line. He has been working

with governmental experts on various plant blights since July, 1914.

The program of the twentieth anniversary celebration of the New York Botanical Garden is, in part, as follows:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

Registration and inspection of the building in the morning, and in the afternoon, addresses of welcome by the President of the Board of Managers, Dr. W. Gilman Thompson, by the Chairman of the Scientific Directors, Dr. H. H. Rusby, by the Hon. Thomas W. Whittle, Commissioner of Parks for the Bronx, and a History of the New York Botanical Garden by the Director, Dr. N. L. Britton. After an inspection of part of the grounds, dinner will be served at the Rocking Stone Restaurant in the New York Zoological Park, which will also be inspected.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH.

Session for the reading of scientific papers, in the morning under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. A. Harper, in the afternoon under that of Dr. C. Stuart Gager.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.

Salt Water Day on Staten Island, in cooperation with the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

Lunch at Saurer's Restaurant, followed by study of sand dunes and salt marshes at Crooke's Point.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.

Session for the reading of scientific papers, in the morning under the chairmanship of Dr. D. T. MacDougal, in the afternoon under that of Dr. W. A. Murrill; followed by an inspection of another part of the grounds after tea at the Mansion. In the evening there will be a smoker at the Faculty Club, Columbia University.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.

Visit to the pine-barrens at Tom's River, New Jersey, under the guidance of the Field Committee of the Club.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

Visit to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in the morning and to a white cedar swamp at Merrick, L. I., in the afternoon.

Visitors will be the guests of the New York Botanical Garden at luncheon on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on Saturday.